100 US-made rifles seized at Manila port

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Destabilization awaits anti-GMA destabilizers



'They are going too far'



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'NO FRIENDS IN POLITICS'

Tape replays Biazon-Barbers poll fight

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BUGGED, too? Vice President Noli de Castro takes a call.



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Palace wants closure to jueteng 'show'

PNP won't probe 'jueteng' any more

Where are the President's men?

Correction

Abalos to 'Garci': Don't ask for reappointment

PCGG, DA eye coco compromise

Don't let 'Garci' flee, gov't urged

By Philip C. Tubeza

DON'T let him fly the coop.

A militant lawmaker yesterday urged the authorities to prevent Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, who has reportedly gone into hiding, from fleeing the country.

Anakpawis party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said Garcillano should not be allowed to escape since he is a major figure in the wiretapping controversy embroiling President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"His conversations with the President on poll manipulation have jolted the entire nation awake and sparked even more calls for the President's resignation. By no means should Garcillano be allowed to leave the country," Beltran said.

The veteran labor leader also said Garcillano should not be reappointed by the President or confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, which bypassed his appointment last week.

Key player

"But neither should he be allowed to go into hiding or to leave the country. The investigations into this tape scandal have yet to fully unfold and Garcillano is a key player. Garcillano has singlehandedly put the credibility of the [Commission on Elections] and even the entire election process in serious doubt," Beltran said.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Teddy Casiño said reappointing Garcillano would be "the biggest mistake" Ms Arroyo "can make at this point."

"Both of them are suspect. They are viewed as partners in crime. He should not be reappointed and, like GMA, ought to be investigated. Garcillano seemed to be GMA's hatchet-man in the Comelec and was appointed there for that purpose," Casiño said.

"Now, it appears to me that he is being made the fall guy just to save the skin of GMA. He should not allow that to happen. He should speak out and tell the public the whole truth. He should tell who are the others involved in this biggest electoral fraud committed since 1969 when Ferdinand Marcos stole the presidential elections," he said.

Beltran also condemned Ms Arroyo's silence on whether she would reappoint Garcillano, with whom she purportedly had several cell phone conversations on the outcome of the May 2004 presidential elections that were tapped allegedly by military intelligence personnel.

Will Garci speak?

He also scored Garcillano's silence on the issue.

"Is there now a gag order against Garcillano? Speculations are already rife that Malacañang is keeping Garcillano from issuing statements, but its dilemma to keep Garcillano employed in the Comelec is largely due to uncertainty. Will Garcillano speak, and what will he say when asked about the taped conversations between him and the President?" he said.

Beltran said he and fellow Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano will join other progressive lawmakers and leaders of anticorruption and antifraud groups in a protest rally tomorrow in front of the Comelec offices in Intramuros, Manila.

Members of Anakpawis, Bayan Muna, Gabriela Women's Party and the anticorruption group, Patriots, as well as organizations under the umbrella of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) will rally beginning at 1 p.m.

's VP?

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BANNERS and posters endorsing character actor Rez Cortez's run for the country's top position have cropped up in some streets in Metro Manila yesterday after being sarcastically mentioned by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye as one of the opposition's alternatives to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In an interview with dzXL radio yesterday, Cortez, who has spearheaded the search for truth for the late Fernando Poe Jr., said he believed the banners were the handiwork of Bunye and Malacañang's propaganda machine to undermine the opposition's efforts to shed light on allegations that the President cheated in last year's elections based on a wiretapped conversation with Elections Commission Virgilio Garcillano.

"I have nothing to do with those banners which I think are the handiwork of Bunye and Malacañang," said Cortez who swore he has no intention of gunning for the country's highest post.

When asked to comment on Cortez's accusations, Bunye jokingly replied: "Is that so? Who's the Vice President?"

But seriously, Bunye said: "There is absolutely no truth to this. Some people may want to aggravate the situation but we're not behind this."

Alternative

Bunye brought up the possibility of having Cortez as President at the height of the opposition's clamor for the President to step down and call for a snap election. In an interview with dwIZ radio Saturday, Bunye said: "These wayward elements hate the President but we ask them: do they have an alternative leader or program of government to offer? Do we want a military junta?"

"They should tell the public who they want to put in power. Will it be (retired Gen. Fortunato) Abat? Will it be former President (Joseph) Estrada? Will it be from the left or from the group of Ka Roger (communist spokesperson Rogelio Rosal)? Will it be Rez Cortez?"

Cortez thanked Bunye for thinking of him as "presidentiable" and invited the presidential spokesperson to join the opposition and end his job of funneling lies to the public.

The Cortez for President banners could also be a product of the Filipinos' penchant to make fun out of serious political matters.

In the case of the President's wiretapped conversation which has been converted into a novel ring tone for mobile phones, Bunye said: "It indicates that we are generally a humorous people. I don't think we should make a mountain of a molehill because this is regularly done by Filipinos."

Rowe slay convict a free man by June 28

By Norman Bordadora

ONE OF the two men convicted in the killing of United States Army Col. James Rowe in 1989 is set to be released from prison on June 28, the human rights group Karapatan said yesterday.

Bureau of Corrections records showed Donato Continente shall have served his maximum sentence of 14 years after he entered the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City in April 1991.

"There is no more legal impediment for his release. He should be freed on June 28," said Karapatan secretary general Marie Hilao-Enriquez.

Continente, a youth organizer who also worked at the Philippine Collegian, the school paper of the University of the Philippines, at the time Rowe was killed actually served more than 16 years in prison following his arrest in June 1989.

Enriquez said Karapatan had protested the government's decision to count Continente's years in prison from the time he was admitted into the NBP on April 13, 1991, instead of when he was arrested in connection with the Rowe killing.

"Yes," Enriquez said, when asked if Continente should have been freed two years ago.

Continente was initially convicted as a principal in the murder of Rowe. He was sentenced to life in prison on Feb. 27, 1991.

Upon review, however, the Supreme Court ruled in August 2000 that he was only an accomplice and commuted his sentence to 14 years.

The communist National Democratic Front, in the course of its peace talks with the government, had sought the release of Continente and the principal accused in the case, Juanito Itaas, claiming they were political prisoners. Itaas is serving life sentence.

Their release, however, never pushed through because of supposed pressure from the US government to keep them behind bars for the killing of the American officer.



CONTINENTE

METRO

NBI nabs 10 alien GROs in Manila bar

Prove guards connived with 'Pajero Lady'—CIW



MAIN ROAD OR JEEP TERMINAL?

Clock tower newest tourist stop

Witness provides ID for cops slay suspects

Food poisoning downs 31 workers

Seniors' fave spots

CA orders Caloocan court to suspend TRO on Malonzo

Museum to supervise Arroceros excavation work

Destabilization awaits anti-GMA destabilizers



PRESIDENT

100 US-made . . .

Conspiracy theory



Critic finds more errors in private school books

Not listening

Hilarious mistakes



Bands for Life launched tonight

Rebs, landlords blamed for delay in land reform

LOG BAN VICTIMS

Furniture makers seek Senate help on wood shortage

The Daily Gospel

The WORLD

Editor: [illegible]

2 dead in Cambodia school hostage drama

4 Filipino teachers, 1 Filipino child among hostages released unharmed, says Manila

SIEM REAP, Cambodia—One Canadian child was killed Thursday after police stormed an international school in the northwestern Cambodian town of Siem Reap where gunmen were holding around 30 people hostage, police said.

[illegible] —AFP

Antibiotic wipes out elephantiasis worms

[illegible] —AFP

Welcoat nails Unity Cup crown

By Joanne W. Papa



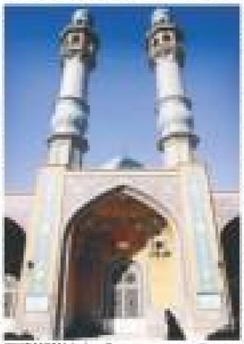
WELCOAT coach Caloy Garcia gets victory ride.

Navarrete punches man, grabs vendor's meager earnings



NAVARRETE

Rafsanjani not sure of win in closest Iran election



Australian scientists make blood from human stem cells



Ex-world's richest man admits to insider trading



TSUTSUMI

SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE

Ateneo tossers upend Lady Tams

Focus on 6 drivers as AF-3 returns to Zhuhai





Cone ejected as Red Bull routs Alaska



ASIAN UNIVERSITY TILT

Xiamen, Myong Ji zap local foes

Fiba hails election of new BAP leaders

adidas Streetball Cebu elims gets going today

Which RP team will the Fiba bless?

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

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Editor in Chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc
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[illegible]



Repression

EDITORIAL

ON THURSDAY, a mobile patrol unit arrested three young people pasting posters on an island along Kalayaan Avenue in Barangay Central, Quezon City. The Central Police District of the Philippine National Police initially charged them with violations of Article 153 of the Revised Penal Code, or tumults and other public disturbances, and the anti-littering ordinance. As preparations were being made to pay the P1,000 bail initially recommended by a city prosecutor, it was learned that the charges had been elevated to inciting to sedition, a crime punishable by up to six years imprisonment and a fine of P2,000. The three eventually posted bail.

What did the posters say? They had the words "President Evil," and "The Evil Continues." At the bottom of the posters was written: "Sa Hunyo 30, mamamayan, lumaban ka (On June 30, citizens, fight for your rights)!" The posters portrayed President Macapagal-Arroyo as Valentina, the nemesis of Darna. This, apparently, now counts as sedition.

What separates these posters from posters that have come before and during past elections, including the posters of the Left? Nothing. Much of what was once considered par for the course in a democracy—the lampooning of officials, the pasting of posters, the discussion of issues—has now been classified as dangerous, illegal and punishable. Our older readers will recall the Japanese Occupation, when it became patriotic to flout the regulations of the authorities. Our younger readers will recall martial law, when it became a civic duty to read banned books, pamphlets and magazines, and when it was considered good citizenship to watch videotapes of Japanese inquiries into Ninoy Aquino's murder. The government of our country is putting its citizenry in the same position again.

Does a government have a right to defend itself? Of course. However a distinction needs to be made between defending the authority of the state in the interest of those who hold positions of authority in the state, and defending the state in the interest of the people, to whom everything—state, status, position—is owed. There is a difference between using the law to uphold the law, and using the law as a means of intimidating citizens, whose safety, property and peace of mind the law is ultimately supposed to protect.

We can no longer deny that it has become government policy to use the law to stifle not only peaceful dissent, but the basic birthright of a democratic people to engage in public debate and discourse. The law has been invoked by the justice secretary, the National Telecommunications Commission, the National Bureau of Investigation. The Palace itself may not be speaking darkly of legal consequences for anyone who dares to inquire into matters that might reflect badly on the President, but it doesn't have to. The authorities have all been brought forward in full battle array, to remind everyone just who, exactly, has might, if not right, on its side. We fail to see any sign of a democratic and healthy confidence in media and the public that should be the hallmark of our government.

The greatest danger to stability is presented not by those who would use all means, fair or foul, to destabilize a government, but by a government that displays a fundamental insecurity when it comes to public inquiry and media probing. Some will say we in the media are whining out of a misguided belief that free speech is absolute. But we say they are wrong in assuming that the power of the state should be used, as it is being used, in such a cynical manner.

Cynical is the only way to describe the way media have been reminded to obey the law, when what is at question is the possibility that the defenders of the law have been the first to break it. The country is concerned with allegations that those holding public office have not held it in a manner that inspires trust; and yet, instead of trusting media and the people to find out the truth, anyone expressing a contrary opinion to that held by the Palace is now threatened with being branded as seditious.

There is a reason people always consider those who are quick to accuse others of sedition as tyrants. Those who invoke the law on sedition have all too often proved to be tyrants.

Why is GMA so scared of the tapes?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is really in [illegible] the suppression [illegible] "ding dong" [illegible] tapes that are now the talk of the town. She has to speak up. [illegible]

[illegible]

What about the tapes that Paguia, Ong and [illegible] presented to the media? But were they really tapped? [illegible]

[illegible]

Catch 22: Legality without legitimacy

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

THE QUEEN reigns upon the [illegible] "Oh what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive," and oh, what a tangled web, indeed.

[illegible]

Comments to [illegible]

Revolutions can't be rushed

ANALYSIS



Amando Doronila

Don't blame the Church

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

The Aguinaldo house

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

My father's Shanghai

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

Everybody knows about 'jueteng'

LETTERS

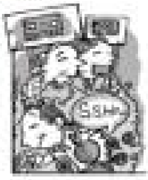
GMA's best performance yet

Tale of the tapes

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

Across the NATION

'Jueteng' thrives in Batangas, Laguna



'Jueteng' men besiege gov with job pleas

Gun raps filed vs defeated bet



Benguet farmers say checkpoints sources of 'tong'



UNITY

Rice experts say funds for research lacking

Crucial

Heavy investments

$1 billion



PUKA BEACH
A woman picks shells and pebbles on the shore of Puka Beach in Boracay despite a sign posted prohibiting the extracting and collecting of sand or pebbles from the beach.

Bacoor folk seek GMA help in cityhood bid











Militant leader hurt in attack



REINFORCEMENT

DPWH team focuses probe on anomalies in 3 bridge projects

Complaints

Arrest

Denial

DENR execs turn to communities to protect forests without funds

Good life for most Pinoys in 10 years—Neda

Child mortality

Environment

Poverty reduction

BIR charges Cabinet member with tax evasion

Matter of courtesy

Appointment with Yap

Fraud

No restrictions

'They are going too far'

Improved tax collection

Ex-UP head calls for 'revolutionary gov't'

By DJ Yap

A REVOLUTIONARY government like the one that installed Corazon Aquino as president in 1986 is what Filipinos should now bat for, instead of just the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The radical suggestion was aired yesterday by Francisco "Dodong" Nemenzo, a former president of the University of the Philippines. He said the objective was to "start from the beginning" because a regime change would not be enough to bring about genuine reforms.

"We have to reduce the power of the elite. Only then can democracy have a chance to flourish in this country," Nemenzo said at a press conference held at the university's Quezon City campus, wherein disgruntled sectors of the UP community demanded Ms Arroyo's "resignation, impeachment or ouster."

The UP Alliance for Arroyo's Removal (UP Aware), composed of students, teachers, and administrative, research and support staff, based its demand on allegations that the President's victory in the May 2004 election was fraudulent.

Nemenzo said a snap election would be useless because the elite would still control the government.

"What we really need [to do] is call for a provisional revolutionary government," he said in Filipino.

Asked to explain, Nemenzo said the people had lost their trust in government institutions, such as the Senate and the House.

Even if the President was impeached, he said, those who would take part in the political exercise had "very low credibility."

The only recourse left to the people is to take "extraconstitutional means" of wresting power, Nemenzo said.

It will then be up to the people to decide who should lead them, he said, adding: "In popular upheavals, it is the least expected person who comes out to be the leader."

At the press conference attended by opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Ted Failon, who represented losing 2004 presidential candidate Bro. Eddie Villanueva, UP Aware read a statement rejecting what it said was a leadership founded on lies and deceit.

Giovanni Tapang of the Samahan ng Nagtataguyod ng Agham at Teknolohiya para sa Sambayanan said his group had studied the female voice in the purported wiretapped conversations and compared it with Ms Arroyo's last State of the Nation Address. He said the preliminary results indicated a likely match.

UP Aware also said the controversial tape was the latest indictment of the Arroyo administration.

To Nemenzo's radical suggestion, Pimentel said he preferred a more "moderate" approach—Ms Arroyo's resignation.

He said Vice President Noli de Castro should also step down, after which Senate President Franklin Drilon would serve as acting president for the sole purpose of calling for an election.

Asked if he then intended to seek the presidency, Pimentel said he was too old to do so.

GMA rejects House request for tape comment

From page A1

away from her. She must take the lead and grab the bull by the horns."

Drilon said the administration bloc in the Senate remained in full support of the President, but added that he would prefer a direct statement from her on the serious allegation.

"I myself would be interested in the truth," he said.

Just her position

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, chair of the House public information committee that would lead the joint investigation, stressed that the letter to be sent to Ms Arroyo would not contain a "categorical" question about the tape.

"We will [only] ask her to comment and get her position on the issues in which her name has been mentioned," he said.

Remulla said a working draft had been completed. But the letter might be sent to Malacañang only on Monday because it will have to be reviewed by the chairs of the four other committees involved in the investigation set to start on Tuesday.

Asked what would happen if the President ignored the letter, Remulla said: "We'll have to decide from there."

"If the President decides not to reply, that's her choice. We will respect it."

From Paris, where he is seeking debt relief and raising investments for the Philippines, Speaker Jose de Venecia sent a statement assuring the public of "transparency" in the House investigation.

"I am allowing the use of the plenary hall during the recess so as to accommodate House members, invited resource persons and guests who will testify during the hearings," De Venecia said.

Correct stand

Ms Arroyo's other ranking allies in the House said she could choose to ignore the chamber's letter.

Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Iloilo Rep. Exequiel Javier said the President could even seek the Supreme Court's help "if the House will insist on writing [to her]."

They said sending Ms Arroyo the letter could violate the constitutional provision on the separation of powers of the executive and legislative branches and the rule guaranteeing the right to privacy and against self-incrimination.

"As majority leader, I have made known my reservations and objections about the House committees writing a letter to the President. [This is] precisely because she already said she would not ... dignify an illegally obtained and nonadmissible tape or that evidence, which has no probative, evidentiary value whatsoever except to destroy her administration by propaganda," Nograles said.

"And the President is correct in her stand. The decision by the committees to write her a courtesy letter should be for the sole purpose of her [putting] an official record her position that she won't dignify falsified tapes illegally obtained," he added.

Silence

Paranaque Rep. Rolio Golez, chair of the House committee on defense which is also part of the inquiry, downplayed Bunye's call on Wednesday for the public to respect the President's silence.

"We have not yet sent our letter so we can't consider Secretary Bunye's statement as the President's reply. I hope that the President in her good heart will reconsider her position after receiving and reading our letter, which, we assure her, will be worded in the most respectful way possible, befitting the dignity of her office," Golez said.

He added: "I just feel it would be a sad day if the President would respond with silence to our letter."

But Minority Leader Francis Escudero said that by her continuing silence, Ms Arroyo had already declared that the female voice on the tape was hers.

"She has convicted herself on the principle that if you have nothing to hide, you have nothing to fear," Escudero, secretary general of the United Opposition, said at a press conference.

"And even if indeed she has something to hide, she should act like a true leader and patriot and face the consequences of her actions," he said.

Realization

Bunye and Malacañang respected the investigation initiated by the House.

"But to insist on the President's response relative to this dubious audio tape is inappropriate as far as we are concerned," he said, adding:

"The real issues are, first, whether the President cheated in the last election, which she did not, and, second, whether a destabilization plot exists, and it does exist."

Bunye said Malacañang was prepared to engage on the issues of election fraud and destabilization, "citing legitimate comments and records."

"But we stand firm on our decision not to dignify the tapes," he said.

By coming out with copies of the President's alleged wiretapped conversations with Garcillano, the opposition is "projecting that we cheated in the election," Bunye said. "We can answer that without referring to the tapes."

He said Malacañang was planning to inundate Congress with testimony from neutral sources and "credible" agencies to bolster its position that "there was no cheating, and if there was cheating, it was not that widespread."

"International observers said the elections were generally clean and orderly and this was stated by the US Embassy and Namfrel (National Citizens Movement for Free Elections)," Bunye said.

"We have records of various surveys by ABS-CBN, GMA, Pulse Asia, SWS (Social Weather Stations) and AMA. All of these pre-polls and exit polls indicated that the President would win and the margin of victory would be anywhere from 800,000 to over a million. These surveys were confirmed by actual results," he said.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said that by seeking the President's comment on the tape, the House had shown that it was "doing more than the Senate."

"The Senate should be ashamed for doing nothing. Some of us just want to earn brownie points with [Ms Arroyo]. Maybe the senators are more scared. They want to keep their positions," he said.

Osmeña said the Senate's cool reception to Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.'s proposal for an inquiry had sent a signal to the public that it was "not willing to stand up for the truth."

Drilon had expressed openness to a Senate inquiry into the tape. But he and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense, had ruled out the possibility of the chamber conducting such a probe now because it is in recess and will not reconvene until July 25.

Osmeña said it was high time Ms Arroyo faced the allegations of election fraud.

But he said it would be understandable if Ms Arroyo ignored the House's request because the matter had become a case of "damned if she does and damned if she doesn't."

Archbishop Oscar Cruz said he had listened to the allegedly wiretapped conversations of the President.

"I'm convinced that the tape is genuine. That is her voice in there," he told the Inquirer.

Cruz said he had listened to a reproduction of the three-hour tape presented last week by Samuel Ong, former National Bureau of Investigation deputy director for intelligence.

The tape, which Ong called "the mother of all tapes," is now being held by Bishop Teodoro Bacani. Cruz refused to say how he got his copy or how he could be sure that it was a faithful reproduction of Ong's tape. And the absence of credibility is her own doing, Cruz said. *Gil Cabacungan Jr., Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac, TJ Burgonio, Philip C. Tubeza and Christian Villagracia*

Wiretap? Noli extra cautious

From page A1

had become extra cautious when using his mobile phone. "Baka! *Ngayon pati ako* (Because now, even I am) ..." he said before trailing off.

"Wiretapped?" a reporter said.

"*Hindi naman* (Not really)," De Castro replied with a smile.

The Vice President spoke with reporters in a chance interview at the Manila Hotel, where he was a guest at the launch of the second Philippine progress report on the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations Development Program.

To demonstrate his point, he took out his mobile phone, put it to his ear, and pretended to have a conversation with someone.

"*Pag may kausap ako, sandali lang, ano ang pinagsasasabi mo? Mamaya na lang* (When I'm talking to someone ... wait a minute, what are you saying? We'll talk later)," he said, laughing with his interviewers.

He continued: "*Pag nadyan Panalo ang cell phone mo, ay, wiretapped yata ako, ah* (When your phone stops working for a while, you think, I could be wiretapped)."

De Castro said that as he had shown, there might be a need for a stricter law on wiretapping.

With the alleged wiretapping of no less than the President, everybody now thinks anyone's phone could be bugged, he said.

No objection

De Castro said he had no objection to the House investigation of the tape scandal, as long as there was evidence.

"Remember that this is in aid of legislation, not to prosecute anyone," he said. "Let's try to find out. It's easy now, such that we might need a stricter law," he said.

Amid calls for the President's resignation, or talk that she could be impeached, De Castro said he had not given much thought to the possibility he might just have to fill Ms Arroyo's shoes anytime soon.

"*Maghintay na lang tayo ng 2010 kung gusto nilang palitan siya* (Let's just wait for 2010 [when her term ends] if they want to replace her)," the Vice President said.

Tape replays Biazon-Barbers poll fight

From page A1

nakong alalahanin ko sa yo. Para naman pang tumikim, pwede pang dagdag di, ba?" Barbers allegedly told Garcillano.

In a taped conversation on June 4, "Garcillano" instructed "Barbers" to leave the PR office with his executive secretary at the Comelec, a certain Ellen Peralta.

Irony

Former Comelec Chair Harriet Demetriou had a good laugh while listening to the conversations. "The irony of it," she said.

Demetriou said that in early 1996, Barbers called her to complain about Garcillano's involvement in "fraudulent activities" during the 1995 elections in Northern Mindanao, where Garcillano was assigned as Comelec director.

In the elections, Barbers ran for senator while his mother, Regina, ran for governor in Surigao del Norte. His son, Robert Ace, ran for the congressional seat while his other son, Robert Jr., ran for councilor in Makati City.

Regina lost the gubernatorial race, and Barbers was said to have blamed Garcillano for the debacle. Soon after Demetriou's confirmation at the Commission on Appointments in January 1996, Barbers gave her a call about Garcillano's conduct.

Garcillano was summoned to Manila for a confrontation with Barbers in the commissioners' office.

Demetriou said that during the confrontation, Garcillano explained his side and vehemently denied he had engaged in electoral fraud.

"So I asked Barbers if he wanted to file a formal complaint so we could conduct an investigation. He said, '*Wag na lang* (Never mind),'" Demetriou recalled.

After Barbers left, Demetriou said she confronted Garcillano about the complaint, and the regional director reiterated his denial.

"I glowered at him. *Wag kang hihiloko, Garcillano. Pinutan mo ito, kung totoo ito, ipakulong kita* (Don't fool around. Remember this. If this is true, I'll have you arrested)," Demetriou recalled telling Garcillano.

Barbers in Europe

The Inquirer tried to contact Barbers, but his publicist said the former senator was in Europe on his way to the United States. Barbers left last week and would be away for at least a month.

Biazon was proclaimed the winner on June 2 by a margin of 10,565 votes over Barbers, but on June 8, Barbers said the proclamation was "illegal, premature and anomalous."

Barbers said there was a mathematical probability that the results could change with 26,229 votes still to be canvassed by the Comelec.

The Comelec, however, junked Barbers' petition and upheld Biazon as the 12th winning senator in the 2004 elections.

In Cotabato City, Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos said the conduct of the May 2004 polls in Mindanao was clean and orderly.

"As far as we are concerned, there was no irregularity," he said.

Abalos made the claim on radio dzMM Wednesday despite the recordings of alleged conversations between the President and Garcillano.

In the conversations, it appeared that there were efforts to influence the results of the elections in favor of Ms Arroyo in Lanao del Sur and in Cotabato City.

Massive cheating

Hadji Abdullah Dalidig, chair of the National Movement for Free Elections in Lanao del Sur, earlier said he had documents to prove that massive cheating had occurred in the province in favor of the President.

Comelec supervisor Lintang Bedol in Maguindanao, whose name was repeatedly mentioned in the series of conversations, denied any wrongdoing.

"I was puzzled why my name was dragged into this controversy," Bedol said.

He said it was impossible for him to receive instructions from Garcillano because Abalos was the commissioner-in-charge for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Bedol, who supervised the canvassing of votes cast in the city, said Garcillano did not call him on June 10, 2004, to change the results of the presidential race.

"At that time the canvassing was already over and in Cotabato City, GMA lost to FPJ (Fernando Poe Jr.). How can they accuse us of rigging the results?" he said.

Abalos acknowledged that the scandal had affected the Comelec's credibility, but added he was hopeful the doubts would soon be cleared.

"As far as the Comelec is concerned, we are not experts and we don't have the technical knowledge to determine the authenticity of the alleged taped conversations between President Arroyo and Garcillano. We must not rashly judge and just focus our actions and judgment on the issue based on reason and scientific studies," he said. *With a report from the PDI Mindanao Bureau*

BUSINESS

Economy seen to grow by over 5% in Q2

Currencies



Stock Market

Stocks up 0.38%





5-mo BOP surplus hits $1.6B

WHAT'S INSIDE





IRR revision seen to ease impact of new VAT law

Petron clears Core Maritime

Economy seen . . .



Saving the Barako way of life of Pinoy coffee farmers

CORPORATE CITIZEN

Strong comeback

Profits

Pilot farm



Safeguards in Japan-RP deal sought

THE FAIR Trade Alliance, a multi-sectoral economic organization, yesterday deplored the lack of transparency in the way the executive branch of the government was crafting the Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA).

In fact, FTA added, "the executive branch is foisting the JPEPA on the nation as if it were a done thing or a fait accompli."

FTA said the tariff reduction schedule was one of the two main features of a proposed Japan-Philippine agreement. It seeks the reduction to zero of the tariffs on Philippine and Japanese goods within 10 years, beginning in 2006.

FTA expressed fears that the proposed deal did not provide safeguards to the country's industrial goods, which include regulation and competition issues.

In a statement, the FTA said that the Philippines seemed to be offering a comprehensive list of goods to be liberalized without any clear reciprocal counter offer from Japan. "If this is so, the deal will become a one-sided liberalization agreement, with the liberalization taking place mostly on the Philippine side."

Without the safeguard or safety net clause in the agreement, Philippine industries will have no remedies against import surges and dumping.

The FTA said the proposed deal included the so-called 'Singapore issues' (government procurement, trade facilitation, investment and competition policies), which were thrown out in the failed WTO Cancun Ministerial in 2003 because these issues encroached on the independent capacity of developing countries to determine their development priorities.

The group said the impact on local appliances, cement, tools and other industrial products would likely be negative.

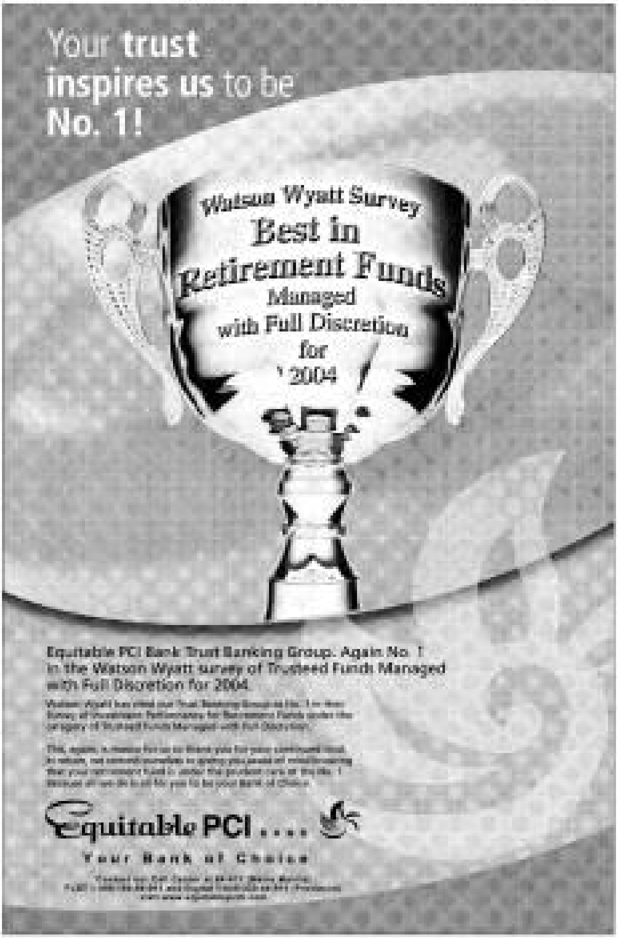
"It is unclear how the agricultural sector will gain from JPEPA. There is also reportedly long list of excluded Japanese products which our trade negotiators are reluctant to share," the group said.

It said it was clear that Japan had been aggressively promoting the enhanced bilateral "economic partnership agreements" (EPAs) with the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries to counter the efforts of China to conclude an 'early harvest' (preparatory to full free trade) agreement with these countries and the bilateral free trade initiatives being made by the United States.

Ratings upgrade seen this year

Boardroom brawl in ETPI worries envoy

CebuPac expects ₱400M in profit



Disclosures

Tales of troubled men

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE GAMBLING problems of Vicente "Vince" Carlos have finally caught up with him.

According to the grapevine, the Ramos-era Tourism secretary was detained upon his arrival at the San Francisco International Airport on Monday (Tuesday in Manila), and was being held in a San Mateo county facility in connection with his casino debts in Las Vegas.

Carlos, a lawyer and a former district governor of Rotary Philippines, was on his way to Chicago with his wife Tina to attend an international Rotary convention to be held at the Windy City this weekend.

With the Chicago trip aborted, Tina had been forced to stay in the Bay Area, while the family tries to sort out the latest mess that her husband has found himself in.

According to the family grapevine, Carlos's father had already bailed him out of a rumored $1 million "fee" he had obtained during the Erap years from Macau gambling tycoon, Stanley Ho.

Likewise, Carlos's classmates in Ateneo have often been tapped to pitch in, whenever Carlos was short of funds, especially after the family sold its shareholdings in Security Bank and the Norton & Harrison construction trading business.

Meanwhile, another famous Filipino inmate in the United States, former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez, is due to be released in late November, after having served a two-year term for electoral fraud and tax evasion.

Jimenez, also known as Inmate Number 69335-004, is currently detained at the Allenwood Federal Correctional Institution, a minimum security facility in White Deer, Pennsylvania.

According to the government grapevine, Jimenez will be deported to Manila by the federal authorities upon his release, having lost his green card status and the right to live in the United States.

And, finally, former National Archives chief Ricardo Manapat left the country last weekend, after having quietly survived all the FPJ-related court cases heaped upon him by the opposition for his having claimed that Fernando Poe Jr. was not a natural-born Filipino and, therefore, ineligible for the presidency.

According to the grapevine, Manapat was even briefly held at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport last Saturday as his name was still included in the outdated hold-departure list.

A frantic phone call to Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez finally cleared Manapat's departure.

Fuego in Punta

PUNTA Fuego residents led by Erap golf teacher Joey Stevens have sued the Batangas government for raising the zonal valuation in the ritzy resort, from P2,000 to as much as P23,000 a square meter.

According to the grapevine, Batangas Governor Armando Sanchez has in turn been pointing to his vice governor, Ricky Recto, as having led the revenue-raising initiative as presiding officer of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

Sanchez, who does not need another political headache, has been meeting quietly with the Punta Fuego representatives, and promising, by way of a compromise, a downward adjustment of the rates.

Money-go-round

• THE LORENZOS are in the thick of negotiations to acquire the Japanese fast-food chain Teriyaki Boy, which they plan to fold into their publicly listed Pancake House.

• THE PROFITABLE Cebu Pacific is saving another 35 percent in fuel costs with the deployment of new Airbus 320 planes to replace its similar-sized Boeings.

• LISA Gokongwei is launching her 22nd magazine, the Philippine edition of Marie-Claire, by the last quarter, in time for the holiday advertising overload.

Heard through the grapevine

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue has written a number of dealers of luxury cars and SUVs to ask for their respective lists of buyers.

Apparently, the BIR wants to match the buyers' lists with the reported sales prices and vehicle registration data with the Land Transportation Office.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

DTI, food firms seek to boost exports of biscuits, snacks

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry yesterday said it was working closely with key players of the local food sector in drawing up a road map to boost the exports of biscuits and confectionery products.

According to the DTI, its Foreign Trade Service Corps recently met with the local food sector to gather inputs on the road map being prepared, including the export markets they were targeting.

Data showed that confectionery and honey exports reached $24.27 million in 2004, or an increase of 12.5 percent from the 2003 level.

Also, exports of cereal and flour preparations-which include biscuits-were estimated to have reached $43 million in 2004, up 3.62 percent from last year.

The players in the local biscuits sub-sector include Monde Nissin, Universal Robina Corp., Branded Food and Ingredients Enterprises, Dealo, Ritz, Rebisco Group, Laura's, ECCO, First Choice Food Group, FMC and Monde MY San Corp.

Other food companies that participated in the dialogue included: Castillejos, Florence Foods Corp. Rebisco, RFM Corp. Florence, Pinakamasarap, KLT Fruits, Cebu Legacy, Leslie Corps, Pacific Isles and Caramba.

DTI commercial attachés and trade service officers previously assigned to the USA, Malaysia, Germany, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea and Hong Kong joined the dialogue with industry players to discuss the potentials of Philippine food in global markets.

According to the commercial attachés, promotional marketing events were undertaken for the biscuits and confectionery sector in the past, such as food sampling for 7 Eleven in Thailand; the buying missions of Japan's Momose Co. and Dubai's Al-Deek Foodstuff Inc.

The events were aimed at strengthening the market's awareness and acceptance of Philippine food products.

As a result, the biscuits sub-sector was able to penetrate key distribution channels in Korea, such as Namdaemun market and train stations, as well as 100 Yen Shops and many other stores in Japan.

Saving the Barako . . .

From page B2

Barako.

"We are happy because, years later, we have helped raise the price of Barako in the market, encouraging farmers to grow it again," Juan said. "There is more awareness that the Philippines produces good coffee."

That's one more reason to grab that cup of Figaro coffee.

PLDT told to cut access charge to Globe

By Clarissa S. Batino



RETAILERS URGED TO PUT PRICE TAGS ON PRODUCTS

Smart in no rush to hold maiden offering

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Gasoline prices seen to be hardest hit by new tax law

By Abigail L. Ho

KBP pulls out of AdBoard

5-mo BOP surplus hits $1.6B

LIFESTYLE



Fashionable provocation

Agent Provocateur, the British brand whose overt mission it was to take lingerie from smutty to stylish, has invaded Hong Kong



At first thought of as a gimmick, A-P has turned intimate apparel into a fun, fashion statement

Fashionable provocation



STELLA



PARFUM











LIFESTYLE

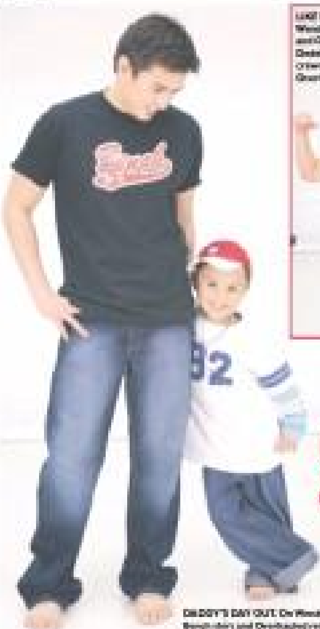


PAPA'S BOY: Wendell Ramos gets a kiss from son Dedell.

The greatest role of his life

Bench endorser and Urian awardee Wendell Ramos gets another trophy for the character he plays best—as single dad to his 5-year-old Dedell

WHEN it comes to their matinee idols, Filipinos can be quite possessive. Not only do they want 'em handsome, they also want 'em single. Once in a while, however, they're





LIKE father, like son. On Wendell: red shirt with collar and Overloaded jeans. On Dedeli: white Teenwear crewneck tee and Teenwear Overloaded jeans.



The greatest role of his life

DADDY'S DAY OUT. On Wendell: black Bench shirt and Overloaded relaxed fit jeans. On Dedeli: white rugby shirt over light-blue long-sleeved shirt and Little League cap

From page C1

willing to cut their object of fantasy some slack, as in the case of doe-eyed heartthrob Wendell Ramos.

[illegible]

No turning back

[illegible]

"If you ask me what my dream role is, I think I've done it," he says. [illegible]

[illegible]

Quality time

In the meantime, Wendell tries to make the most out of his precious spare time by spending it with Dedeli. [illegible]

[illegible]

E-mail the author at [illegible]



HIGHER THAN HIGH. On Wendell: yellow shirt with collar and Overloaded denim jeans. On Dedeli: Teenwear yellow buttoned shirt with collar and Overloaded denim jeans



TWO for the road



DAD'S MY IDOL. On Wendell: Bench short-sleeved, light-blue woven shirt and white Overloaded low-rise denim pants. On Dedeli: Teenwear light-blue long-sleeved crewneck tee and Teenwear Overloaded jeans



SPARRING PARTNERS. On Wendell: red varsity jacket and straight-cut Overloaded jeans. On Dedeli: Teenwear white crewneck tee and Teenwear Overloaded jeans









Beauty's clean-up crew

MAKEOVER 911

People simply want to smell fresh, and men and women are addicted to it

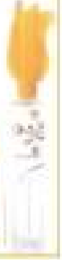
Pretty, pretty fragrance



SCENTED DECORATIVE SET









The empire waist
This trend is as strong as ever, so if you have not yet invested in a dress or top with a waistline that sits just below your bust line, come join the bandwagon. There are different styles and designs to suit your personality and budget.

Diane Von Furstenberg empire dress, Bobbie Johnson's head of sea—both from Rustan's Department Store



Modern indigenous
Modern indigenous is all about taking something tribal or homegrown and mixing it with modern elements to create a contemporary new look. Update your wardrobe by adding pieces that have indigenous touches such as shells or wooden beads. Tribal motifs continue in the fabric. You can also use traditional materials like jusi or rattan to create ultra-modern silhouettes.

The cover of Preview magazine's 10th anniversary issue is possibly the best representation of this look. Kaskas vs Kinak, a talented group of New York-trained designers and architects, and Preview's editor in chief Pauline Suaco Juan and her team for dressing the fashion by Pinoy creativity and craftsmanship.

Cole Brown yellow tank, beaded drawstring bag, Baby Phat denim vest—all from Rustan's

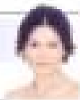


Necklaces galore
The necklace is the accessory of the season. Create a fashion statement by wearing a beautifully bold neckpiece with a simple outfit. Or adorn yourself with strands upon strands of chains, stones, crystals or beads for a more whimsical feel.

Assorted necklaces from Isa by Yasmin de Leon-Bermejo, Zimmerman group dress—all from Rustan's

We all deserve little pleasures, and if yours are sartorial, go ahead and indulge

6 ways to update your look



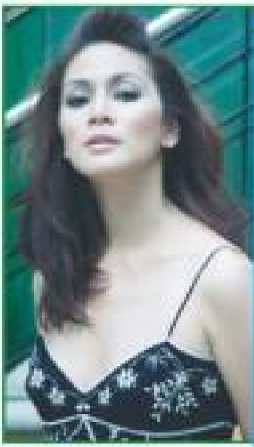
APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

FASHION trends are a vicious cycle. They come and go at such an amazing rate that it can be difficult to keep up. But this doesn't seem to stop most, if not all, of us from adopting the latest styles. Perhaps this is because fashion is incredibly fun and makes us feel good about ourselves.

Well, we all deserve little pleasures. And if yours are sartorial, go ahead and indulge. Update your look and create an interesting new you. On this page are six ways to do just that.

E-mail the author at apples@yahoo.com



Big hair and smoky eyes
"The season is all about big, wavy hair and intense, kohl-rimmed eyes," says beauty maven Jeoff Morris of Kimberlee Salon. To achieve the look, Jeoff made use of Christian Dior's Backstage Makeup collection, a line that was personally developed and supervised by designer John Galliano.

To create smoky eyes, Jeoff made use of Dior's 2-Colour Eyeshadows in Hematite and Ebony... Then, he smudged Dior's Waterproof Eyeliner Pencil in Intense Brown around the eyes. This was followed by a coat of Diorshow Backstage Makeup Waterproof Mascara in Black.

Jeoff also used Skinflash Backstage Makeup Radiance Booster Pen to create highlights and disguise dark circles under the eyes. For a healthy glow, he brushed on Diorskin Powder Backstage Makeup in Comedy Pink all over the face. Finally, he applied Dior Addict Plastic Shine on the lips for a hint of color.

BCBG embroidered evening gown from Rustan's



The dress
If there's one thing you should add to your wardrobe this season, it should be a dress. A wide array of styles abound in the local market, from empire waist, pleated numbers to classic LBDs. Every wear for a special occasion to dress ups. It's a great everyday uniform and can be as fuss-free and simple as you want it to be. Plus, it's all prepared to showcase your soft, feminine side.

Mirjorie Tan wine-colored empire eye dress, Dolce & Gabbana lemon yellow stilettos—all from Rustan's





Textures and prints
Turn heads and create a distinctive look by combining unexpected elements. You can either mix prints, textures or highs and lows. For example, take an embroidered vest. A less than ordinary look and match it with a printed skirt. Or combine a casually chic pair of camouflaged shorts, a beaded tank and a shrug to create casually cocktail look. The options are endless if you just use your imagination and trust your instincts.

Vivienne Tam beaded vest, camisole and skirt, Prada sneakers slippers

Cole Brown patterned shorts and flat-knit tank, BCBG rabbit slit up—all from Rustan's